

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

They Are Now Ready

The *Quarterlies* are now ready to mail, and orders received will have our prompt attention. Every school in the brotherhood should use our literature. In the first place it is as good as the best, and second it is the literature of the church, teaching and upholding its doctrines and principles. To be loyal to your church you must support all its institutions.

Get The Children Right

Some one has very truthfully said, "If we can only get the children right, we'll soon have the world in good order." Every mother, father, teacher and preacher should keep this in mind. If the children of this generation are right, the men and women of the next generation will be right also. This ought to give us stimulus and cheer in our work. If the church will take care of the children the world will be won for Christ.

Theories and Practice

Theory is one thing, practice is another. One may study theory of teaching a whole life time, and yet not be a successful teacher. The way to learn to teach is to *teach*. The way to learn to preach is to *preach*. The way to learn to do anything is to *do it*, not to learn about it. You may stand by the piano and make the very closest observation while another operates the instrument, but until you "get at it" yourself you will never learn how it is done. Theories are all right, and they are good, but theories that cannot be put into practice will never be of any value to us. Do not learn too many theories before you put them into practice, for unless you are learning theories that will work, you are spending time to no purpose.

Three Essential Elements

Plainness, simplicity, and earnestness, are three essential elements or factors in all great and successful preaching. They are not the only elements of gospel preaching, but it is safe to say that without these there is no gospel preaching. A little girl twelve years old once said to the great Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist church, "I have heard much about your greatness as a preacher, yet in your sermon this morning I was able to understand every word you said." That, said the pious and learned bishop, was the greatest compliment ever paid him. Truly that is great preaching, so simple, so plain,

as to bring it within the comprehension of the ordinary, even the children. This was one of the secrets of Christ's greatness, his very simplicity, and with it all his earnestness. The common people heard him gladly, there was force in his words, there was spirit in them, and they were so simple and so plain. Dr. T. L. Cuyler relates the following as his own experience: "The first congregation I served contained about forty families. Of these, three or four were wealthy and highly cultured, and most of the others were plain mechanics, with a few gardeners and coachmen. I aimed my sermons at the comprehension of the gardeners and the coachmen at the rear of the house, leaving my cultured parishioners to gather what they could from the sermon on its way. One of these wealthy folk was a very eminent lawyer. After I had been delivering a very earnest sermon on the worth of the soul, I went home, and foolishly said to myself, 'Lawyer C— must have thought that was sort of a camp meeting exhortation.' He met me during the week, and to my surprise he said to me: 'My young friend, I thank you for that sermon last Sunday. It had the two best qualities of gospel preaching—simplicity and earnestness. If I had a student in my office who was not more in earnest to win his first ten-dollar suit before a justice of the peace than some ministers seem to be in trying to save souls, I would kick such a student out of my office!' That lawyer's remark did me solid good. It proved to me that the most cultured relish plain, simple truth as much as the more ignorant, and that blood earnestness to save souls hides a multitude of faults in a young minister."

Life Protectors

The Earl of Shaftsbury once said, that if London did not have its four hundred city missionaries it would require forty thousand more police. The statement may be an exaggeration, but there is a great deal of truth in it, and food for thought. The authorities of our cities would find it to their advantage and to the advantage of the people generally, even financially, to give missionary work their hearty support. Who will say how many more policemen would be required and how many more jails for those arrested, if it were not for the thousands of Sunday school, missionaries, preachers, and other Christian workers, constantly at work, whose lives and teaching are a great force in checking crime? It is always safer in the vicinity of Sunday-

schools and churches than in the vicinity of saloons. The Sunday schools of this country save the government more money than the saloon pays it in revenue. The one is a breeder of crime, the other a protection against crime.

The Power of a Smile

The London *Christian* tells a story worth remembering of what can be done by smiles that come from the heart: A lady of position and property, anxious about her neighbors, provided religious services for them. She was very deaf, could scarcely hear at all. On one occasion one of her preachers managed to make her understand him, and at the close of their conversation asked, "But what part do you take in the work?" "Oh," she replied, "I smile them in, and I smile them out." Very soon the preacher saw the result of her generous, loving sympathy in a multitude of broad shouldered, hard-fisted men, who entered the place of worship, delighted to get rid of a smile from her as she used to stand in the doorway to receive them. Many more of those who now neglect the church and the Sabbath-school would be found there if Christians would "smile them in and smile them out." There is great power even in a smile, yet it is something at the command of each one of us. Are we using smiles for God?

The Secret of Winsomeness

Christ said of himself that if he be lifted up will draw all men to him. There is a wonderful drawing power in the Lord Jesus Christ, and one reason why many preachers do not draw people is because they do not lift up Christ. Christ should be the great central figure in every sermon, and a sermon that lifts up the preacher rather than Christ must be a failure. The element in the uplifted Christ that draws is that set forth in the following from *Dolan*: What is it in Jesus that so draws men, that wins their allegiance away from any other master, that makes them ready to leave all for his sake and to follow him thro peril and sacrifice even to death? Is it his wonderful teaching? "No man ever spake like this man." Is it his power as revealed in his miracles? Is it his sinlessness? The most malignant scrutiny could find no fault in him. Is it the perfect beauty of his character? None nor all of these will account for the wonderful attraction of Jesus. Love is the secret. He came into the world to reveal the love of God,—he was the love of God in human flesh. His life